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Farm Broadcasters Letter



CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Letter No. 2321

July 16, 1987

HIGHLIGHTS OF U.S. CROP PRODUCTION

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast a 1 billion 570 million bushels, or 42 million 800 thousand metric tons, which is 4 percent above the 1986 production, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Corn planted for all purposes is estimated at 66 million acres, down 14 percent from last year. Growers expect to harvest 59 million 600 thousand acres for grain, down 14 percent from last year. This is 90 percent of the planted acres. Soybean area planted is expected to total 58 million 700 thousand acres, down 5 percent from 1986.

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION

The world wheat production for 1987/88 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 508 million 900 thousand metric tons, up 100 thousand or less than 1 percent from last month, but down 4 percent from last year's record harvest. The U.S. production is estimated at 58 million 100 thousand tons; East Europe, 39 million 400 thousand tons; Australia, 14 million; Canada, 26 million 200 thousand tons.

WORLD COARSE GRAIN PROD.

The world coarse grain production for 1987/88 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 807 million 600 thousand tons, down 3 percent from last year's crop. U.S. production is estimated at 217 million tons, down 14 percent from last year. Corn output is estimated at 181 million 600 thousand tons; oats production at 6 million tons. Canada's coarse grain production is estimated at 23 million 200 thousand tons; China, 93 million 200 thousand tons; European Community, 84 million 200 thousand tons; and East Europe, 70 million 600 thousand tons.

USSR WHEAT CROP 2ND SMALLEST IN 10 YEARS

The 1987 wheat crop of the USSR, currently estimated at 75 million 500 thousand tons, is the second smallest in over a decade, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The reduced crop is expected to result in a significant increase in USSR wheat imports in 1987/88. A major uncertainty is the level of feed quality wheat imports. In 1986/87, with total wheat imports estimated at 17 million tons, feed quality wheat imports are believed to have totaled nearly 4 million tons. Given the recent competitive offering prices for feed wheat and the USSR's traditional use of wheat as a feed, it seems likely that feed wheat imports would again be large in 1987/88.

CCC PAYMENTS
RESUMED

On July 13, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the resumption of payments by the Commodity Credit Corporation. The resumption was made possible by President Reagan's signing into law a supplemental appropriation bill on July 11, with \$5½ billion additional funding for CCC.

SOVIET 1987
GRAIN CROP

The 1987 Soviet grain crop continues to be estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 195 million tons, including 75 million 500 thousand tons of wheat; 105 million 500 thousand tons of coarse grains; and 14 million tons of miscellaneous grains and pulses. The total grain area estimate also remains unchanged at 115 million hectares (288 million acres). Soviet press accounts in early June indicated that the 1987 grain crop is experiencing insect and disease problems in some areas, which could adversely impact the quality of the Soviet grain crops in affected areas.

1987/88 USSR
GRAIN IMPORTS

The estimate of USSR grain imports for the 1987/88 marketing year remains at 36 million tons, including 21 million of wheat, 14 million coarse grains and one million rice, pulses and miscellaneous grains, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USSR grain purchases from all origins for delivery in 1987/88 are estimated between 5-6 million tons. The U.S. is the principal seller with over 3 million tons of wheat currently on the books.

U.S. - USSR
GRAIN TRADE

As of July 2, USSR purchases of grain during the fourth year of the U.S.-USSR Long Term Grain Agreement totaled 8 million 100 thousand tons including 4 million tons of wheat and 4 million 100 thousand tons of corn, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The LTA calls for minimum grain trade of 8 million tons. As the USSR has already purchased the required minimum of wheat and coarse grains, the balance of their purchases can be either wheat, corn or soybeans/soybean meal with each ton of soybeans/soybean meal counting as 2 tons towards the agreement minimum.

WORLD
OILSEED
PRODUCTION

The world oilseed production for 1987/88 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 201 million 600 thousand tons, up 2 percent from last year's previous record output. The U.S. oilseed production is estimated at 59 million tons, down 4 percent from last year. Of this amount, soybean production accounts for 51 million 700 thousand tons, down 5 percent from last year.

SOIL & WATER
RESOURCES

The United States will be able to meet food production needs through the year 2030, despite erosion of topsoil that eventually could threaten farmland productivity, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Copies of the report, "The Second Resources Conservation Act Appraisal," are available for review at local Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation offices. The USDA invites anyone concerned about agricultural resource management to take a hard look at this appraisal and submit comments.

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

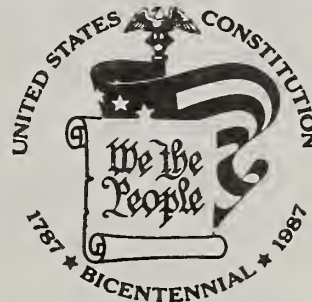
CROP PRODUCTION UPDATE...U.S. farmers are expected to harvest corn and soybeans on significantly fewer acres this year. USDA economist Sam Evans discusses what it will mean for total stocks of corn and soybeans. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (236)

USSR GRAIN SITUATION...The Soviet wheat crop this year is estimated at 75 million tons, the second smallest in over a decade. USDA analyst Keith Severin examines the situation and outlook for USSR grains. Vic Powell interviews. (237)

SMOKEJUMPERS - FOREST LAND'S FIREFIGHTERS...This feature focuses on a unique group of highly-trained airborne fighters who provide the first line of defense against wildfires in our western forests. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (238)

EVALUATION OF EROSION POTENTIAL...John van Es with the university of Illinois talks about the importance of accurately evaluating erosion potential and residue cover when selecting a conservation plan under the Conservation Reserve Program. Gary Beaumont interviews. (239)

ARS RESEARCH FEATURES...USDA research scientists are developing systems that "de-bitter" grapefruit juice; and collecting all sorts of fungae for the U.S. National Fungus Collection. Will Pemble reports. (240)



FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1571...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Leaving on a jet plane - part 2. U.S. farm animals usually travel first class. These passengers are eagerly awaited by special reception committees in the destination countries. But sometimes there are problems. Gary Crawford talks with two experts about solving problems of exporting livestock.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1561...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Low wheat prices; New resources report; New #1 exporter.

CONSUMER TIME #1053...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Selenium--An important trace element; The "plane" truth about agriculture; Closet organizers and more; Kids and exercise; Who's eating what food.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, July 28, Weekly crop and weather; Wed, July 29, Fruit yearbook; Fri, July 31, Agricultural prices; Tues, Aug. 4, Weekly crop and weather; Wed, Aug. 5, Livestock & poultry. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

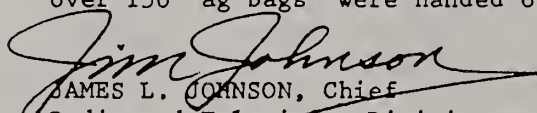
OFF MIKE

Remember Wally Dudney? He was radio and television specialist for USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service for years and retired about 3-1/2 years ago. We got re-acquainted the other day by way of a nice letter he wrote. One purpose in writing, it turned out, was he's moved from Knoxville, Tennessee, to Lexington, Kentucky and wanted to change his newsletter mailing address. He says he and wife Dot decided they didn't need as much land to take care of and wanted to get closer to their son's family, including a new granddaughter ... Forrest Bradley, editor of MidAm Reporter magazine, has done it again, profiled another farm broadcaster, that is. This time it's Mike Wiles (KTTS, Springfield, MO). Mike started at KTTS as a college intern, and the station liked his work so well, they put him on full time when he graduated. He's been there ever since, and that was nearly 8 years ago ... We've been meaning to mention a radio program you may be interested in. Brenda Curtis-Heiken produced an Agriculture USA (our weekly documentary) show on "A History of U.S./Soviet Grain Trade Relations: A History of Change."

Farm Broadcasters Letter
Radio and Television, Rm. 410-A
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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

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If you'd like a copy, let us know. It runs 13-1/2 minutes ... Got an update this week from Kelly Lenz (WIBW, Topeka, KS) on a big event coming up for the Kansas State Fair. Kelly reports the Mexican Secretary of Agriculture Edwardo Pesqueiro and Congressman Kika de la Garza (D-Texas) will be featured speakers on a one-hour program from the fair that will be broadcast live over WIBW and the Kansas Ag Network. That takes place Sept. 12 ... The Independent Florida Agrinet organized and coordinated a special get-together opportunity for broadcasters and Florida's agriculture industries a couple weeks ago in West Palm Beach during the Florida Assoc. of Broadcasters and Radio/Tv News Directors' Assoc. annual meetings. Eighteen ag organizations helped sponsor a hospitality suite and over 150 "ag bags" were handed out.


JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division